

## **PART IV: ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW**

### ***WHO WE ARE***

- The Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County (CAC-HC) was established in Nashua in November 2004.
- The mission of the CAC-HC is to provide child victims of crime and their families a neutral environment where justice, healing, equity and prevention are fostered through the collaboration of community professionals.
- The CAC-HC serves all children in Hillsborough County, ages 3 to 17, who are alleging child sexual abuse, felony level physical abuse or who are witnesses to violent crimes such as homicide or domestic violence.
- The CAC-HC is based on a nationally recognized model and is a fully accredited member of the National Children's Alliance. The CAC-HC is one of four centers within the Granite State Children's Alliance with CAC's in Nashua, Manchester, Laconia and Keene.

When an allegation of child abuse is reported to DCYF or police, a referral is made to the HC-CAC and an interview is immediately scheduled. Using the MDT Forensic Interview Model, information is gathered that is defensible in court and is used in the investigation. This comprehensive cooperative process results in a more successful investigation and provides a better, less traumatic, outcome for the child victim and their family.

The forensic interview is held at the HC-CAC and is facilitated by a forensic interviewer who is highly trained in child development and forensic interviewing techniques. By creating a child-friendly, nonthreatening atmosphere, victims feel safe and comfortable telling their story. Members of the MDT observe the interview on closed circuit TV and can relay additional questions to the interviewer through an earpiece. The interview is also recorded.

## **PART IV: PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **WHAT WE DO**

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) helps to break the cycle of abuse by improving prosecution rates of abusers and putting victims on a path to healing. We strive to reduce the trauma suffered by child victims of abuse by creating a child-friendly and safe place where children can talk to a trained professional forensic interviewer about their abuse and streamline the investigation process.

Under New Hampshire law, when a person suspects physical or sexual abuse of a child, he/she is required to report that suspicion to the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Traditionally, child abuse investigations require that a child retell the account of their abuse multiple times to multiple professionals resulting in additional stress/trauma for the child, inconsistent versions which can be used against them during cross-examination in court proceedings, and fewer convictions. In addition, non-offending parents must navigate the multiple systems alone, often not knowing how to support or protect their child.

A different approach is utilized by Child Advocacy Centers. When an allegation of child sexual abuse or felony level physical abuse is reported to the police or DCYF, a referral is made to the Nashua Child Advocacy Center. Using a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and the Forensic Interview Model, developed by the National Children's Advocacy Center, limits the number of times the child needs to recount their abuse. This research-based protocol is defensible in court and deemed "Best Practice for child abuse investigations" by the NH Attorney General.

CACs also offers programs for parents, teachers, caregivers, agencies, and community groups to promote awareness of child abuse and how to recognize, react responsibly, and prevent it. Programs focus on: Child Abuse (signs, symptoms, prevention, reporting requirements), Body Safety, Internet Safety (1 in 5 children will be solicited sexually while on the internet), School/ Camp Safety, etc.

### **WHY IT MATTERS & EVALUATION METHODS**

The CAC-HC (Nashua Center) produces important benefits to child victims and their families:

- Each allegation of abuse is thoroughly investigated.
- A greater number of offenders are successfully prosecuted.
- The community is educated about child abuse and is better able to identify it.
- Trauma experienced by children is reduced.
- Non-offending parents are empowered to protect and support their children.
- Children receive prompt and ongoing services tailored to their family's needs.

The CAC-HC (Nashua Center) evaluation method is rigorous and follows the National Children's Alliance best practices model. These best practices include:

- A monthly case review meeting is held with the multi-disciplinary team to review progress made on cases and to assure that every case is managed and is progressing.
- CAC-HC enters case data into a national tracking system, NCATrak. This database allows our Center to track cases. Timelines and demographics. We use this data to tailor our services to the population we serve.
- Forensic Interviewers participate in quarterly peer review sessions to improve and evaluate their interviewing skills and techniques.
- The CAC-HC (Nashua Center) participates in an Outcome Measurement Survey to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of our forensic interviews.



# Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County

A program of the Granite State Children's Alliance

## JOB DESCRIPTIONS

### **1. Director of Program Services (*Meghan Noyes*)**

The Program Director oversees the coordination and administration of forensic interviewing, family advocacy and case management. Meghan provides daily oversight for scheduling interviews and ensures adequate staffing of the centers. She is responsible for peer review and ensuring that Forensic Interview Specialists utilize interview protocol and incorporate Best Practices. The Director of Program Services is also responsible for:

- Coordinating education and outreach activities in the community.
- Assisting participants in the center's multi-disciplinary team.
- Assisting in the coordination of multi-agency case review.
- Conducting forensic interviews as needed.

### **2. Program Coordinator / Forensic Interviewer (*Jennifer Deroian*)**

The Program Coordinator / Forensic Interviewer conduct forensic interviews at the CAC. The Interviewer conducts investigatory interviews of children who have made allegation of abuse. The Interviewer has a solid knowledge base on issues related to child abuse and investigations. The Interviewer is trained in suggestibility, memory, styles of questioning, language acquisition, development issues, and validity of allegations and competency requirements. The Program Coordinator / Forensic Interviewer is also responsible for:

- Providing support services to children and family members.
- Assisting members of the multidisciplinary team.
- Coordinating and monitoring case progress.
- Maintaining client files.
- Assisting in the coordination of multi-agency case review.
- Providing community education, outreach and prevention of child maltreatment.

**The Granite State Children's Alliance**  
*Board of Directors – Fiscal Year 2016*  
*Revised 12/21/15*

**Joseph "Tate" Curti**

**President**

Southern New Hampshire Medical Center  
8 Prospect Street  
Nashua, NH 03060  
Work Phone 603.577.2713  
Cell Phone 847-867-7700  
[Tate.Curti@snhhs.org](mailto:Tate.Curti@snhhs.org)

**Chris Hodgdon**

**Immediate Past President**

Comcast  
54 Regional Drive  
Concord NH 03301  
Work Phone: 224-1871 ext. 201  
Home: 644 Bound Tree Rd, Contoocook 03229  
Home Phone: 746-1000  
Cell Phone: 617-279-7167  
[Chris\\_hodgdon@cable.comcast.com](mailto:Chris_hodgdon@cable.comcast.com)

**Attorney Philip Taub, Esq.**

**Vice President**

Nixon Peabody, LLP  
900 Elm Street #1400, Manchester NH 03101  
Work Phone: 628-4000  
Home: 34 Millstone Terrace, Bedford 03110  
[ptaub@nixonpeabody.com](mailto:ptaub@nixonpeabody.com)

**Cyndi Livermore – Board member since 5/2015**

**Treasurer**

Howell & Livermore, LLC  
500 N. Commercial Street, Suite 502,  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Home: 51 Buckingham Way, Bedford, NH 03110  
Work phone: 603-232-7791  
Home/cell: 469-556-2096  
[Cyndi@hlval.com](mailto:Cyndi@hlval.com)

**Lt. Michael Moushegian**

**Secretary**

Nashua Police Department  
0 Panther Drive  
Nashua NH 03062  
Work Phone: 589-1659  
Home: 12 Quinton Drive, Nashua NH 03062  
Home Phone: 889-6335  
Cell Phone: 620-8920  
[moushegianm@pd.ci.nashua.nh.us](mailto:moushegianm@pd.ci.nashua.nh.us)

**Patricia LaFrance, Esq.**

Rockingham County Attorney's Office  
10 NH-125  
Brentwood, NH 03833  
Home: 39 Emerson Lane, Hollis 03049  
Home Phone: 465-2886  
Cell Phone: 930-8347  
[plafrance@rcao.net](mailto:plafrance@rcao.net)

**David Schmitt**

Alkermes plc  
14 Aspen Lane  
Bedford, NH 03110  
Work Phone: ( 781) 609 – 6000  
Home Phone: ( 603) 488 – 5101  
[david.schmitt@alkermes.com](mailto:david.schmitt@alkermes.com)

**Dr. Joseph M. Leahy, D.O.**

Southern New Hampshire Medical Center  
8 Prospect Street  
Nashua, NH 03060  
Work Phone: 577-2538  
Home: 4 Stonewall Crossing, Amherst, NH 03031  
Home Phone: 672-5189  
[Joseph.Leahy@snhmc.org](mailto:Joseph.Leahy@snhmc.org)

**Mark LeDoux**

Natural Alternatives International, Inc.  
1185 Linda Vista Drive  
San Marcos, CA 92078  
Cell: 760-539-2079  
Home: 64 Dow Road, Hollis 03049  
[mledoux@nai-online.com](mailto:mledoux@nai-online.com)

**Andy Crews**

Auto Fair  
Home: 23 Rolling Woods Drive  
Bedford, NH 03110  
Work Phone: 634-1090  
Home Phone: 488-5174  
[acrews@autofair.com](mailto:acrews@autofair.com)

**Attorney John Gasaway**  
**Board members since 2/2015**

9 Bastes Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
Cell: 603-313-6097  
Work: 603-352-0056  
[jgasaway@co.cheshire.nh.us](mailto:jgasaway@co.cheshire.nh.us)

**Brad Russ**

Internet Crimes Against Children  
10 West Edge Drive  
Durham, NH 03824  
Work Phone: 862-7031  
Cell Phone: 793-9549  
[Brad.russ@unh.edu](mailto:Brad.russ@unh.edu)

**Stephen Langan**

Fidelity Management and Research Company  
One Spartan Way – TS2J  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
Work Phone: 791-5556  
Cell Phone: 660-4748  
[Stephen.langan@fmr.com](mailto:Stephen.langan@fmr.com)

**Cathy Brittis**

The CAC of Grafton / Sullivan County at DHMC  
One Medical Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756  
Work Phone: 653-9012  
Cell Phone: 252-1257  
[Cathy.b.bean@hitchcock.org](mailto:Cathy.b.bean@hitchcock.org)

**Tiffany Eddy**

Focus First Communications  
1169 Gorham Pond Road  
Dunbarton, NH 03046  
Home Phone: 493-8703  
Cell Phone: 657-6471  
[Tiffany.eddy@gmail.com](mailto:Tiffany.eddy@gmail.com)

**Rick Brenner**

New Hampshire Fisher Cats  
Home: 2 Pulpit Run  
Amherst, NH 03031  
Home phone: 486-4891  
Work phone: 641-2005 X185  
[Rbrenner@nhfishercats.com](mailto:Rbrenner@nhfishercats.com)

**Lieutenant Nicole Ledoux**

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street, Manchester NH 03103  
Home: 1079 Montelona Rd. Dunbarton NH 03046  
Work phone: 792-5546  
Home /cell phone: 365-7146  
[nledoux@manchesternh.gov](mailto:nledoux@manchesternh.gov)

**Dr. Adrian Thomas, MD**

New Hampshire NeuroSpine Institute  
4 Hawthorn Drive Bedford NH 03110  
Home: 86 King Road Bedford NH 03110  
Work phone: 472-8888  
Home/cell: 203-9144  
[AdrianThomasMD@gmail.com](mailto:AdrianThomasMD@gmail.com)

**Richard C. Tracy – Board member since 5/2015**

NH Dept. of Justice – Attorney General's Office  
33 Capitol Street, Concord NH 03301  
Home: P.O. Box 1043, Meredith, NH 03253  
Work phone: 603-271-1253  
Home/cell: 603-391-6824  
[dicktracy1958@gmail.com](mailto:dicktracy1958@gmail.com)  
[Richard.c.tracy@doj.nh.gov](mailto:Richard.c.tracy@doj.nh.gov)

**Dr. Michael Miller – Board member since 7/2015**

NH's Hospital for children at Elliot Hospital  
1 Elliot Way – PICU – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Manchester, NH 03103  
Home: 145 Pulpit Road, Bedford, NH 03110  
Work Phone: 603-663-3648  
Home: 603-488-5934  
[Mmiller21@elliott-hs.org](mailto:Mmiller21@elliott-hs.org)



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0248467579  
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THE GRANITE STATE CHILDRENS  
ALLIANCE  
% KRISTIE L PALESTINO  
2 WELLMAN AVE STE 140  
NASHUA NH 03064-1463



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Employer Identification Number: 74-3186259  
Person to Contact: Mr Gerding  
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 19, 2012, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in October 2006.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website [www.irs.gov/eo](http://www.irs.gov/eo) for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

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ALLIANCE  
% KRISTIE L PALESTINO  
2 WELLMAN AVE STE 140  
NASHUA NH 03064-1463

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number  
shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard McKee*  
Richard McKee, Department Manager  
Accounts Management Operations